

- persons assuming legal liability for funeral/burial or medical expenses in the event of a victim's death.

Additional criteria may be applicable.

## **Applying For Compensation:**

To apply for compensation individuals may:

- receive free assistance through your local Victim/Witness Assistance Program without fee from the compensation fund.
- obtain, complete, and directly submit an application to the State Board of Control.
- receive assistance through a private attorney at no cost to the victim. The attorney's fees will be paid directly from the victim compensation fund.

For more information on compensation criteria and requirements, contact your local Victim/Witness Assistance Program or the State Board of Control



Courtesy of

Office of Criminal Justice Planning  
1130 K Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 324-9100

For more information on this program in your community, contact:

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GRAY DAVIS  
GOVERNOR



# **CALIFORNIA'S VICTIM/ WITNESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**OFFICE OF CRIMINAL  
JUSTICE PLANNING**

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GRAY DAVIS  
GOVERNOR



## Victim/Witness Assistance Program

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 13835, the California Victim/Witness Assistance Program is administered by the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning, 1130 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916/ 324-9128). The Program is committed to working for a faster, more complete recovery for California victims and witnesses of crime.

### Program Goals

- To reduce the trauma and insensitive treatment of victims/witnesses.
- To increase the willingness of victims/witnesses to participate in the criminal justice system, while at the same time improving the system's understanding of their needs.

### Program Services

- Crisis Intervention  
Helping victims/witnesses cope with the emotional trauma following a crime.
- Emergency Assistance  
Assisting victims with arranging for assistance with emergency food, clothing, and temporary lodging.
- Referrals  
Providing referrals to appropriate community resources.

- Orientation to the Criminal Justice System  
Helping victims/witnesses to understand the criminal justice system, and upon request, obtain case status information, provide support during pre-court interviews and court appearances, counsel employers on victims' needs, and help retrieve property taken as evidence.
- Victim of Crime Compensation  
Assisting eligible crime victims with applying for compensation for qualifying out-of-pocket expenses from the state Board of Control's Crime Victim Compensation Program.

Victim/Witness Assistance services are available in all of California's 58 counties. For more information or assistance contact the victim/witness assistance center nearest you. Most centers are operated through the District Attorney's Office or the Probation Department and can be located in your local telephone directory in the County Government section. You may also receive assistance in locating the center nearest you by contacting the Victims of Crime Resource Center Hotline number: 1/800- VICTIMS (1/800-842-8467), or the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning's Victim/Witness Branch at (916) 324-9128

For more information about victim's rights or seeking legal assistance, victims of crime can call the McGeorge School of Law's VICTIMS OF CRIME RESOURCE CENTER'S toll-free hotline number: 1 /800-VICTIMS .

## The Victims of Crime Compensation Program

The Victims of Crime Compensation Program is administered by the State Board of Control, P.O. Box 3036, Sacramento, CA 95812-3036 (1/800/777-9229 to provide eligible victims with financial reimbursement for qualifying out-of-pocket financial losses caused by a physical or emotional injury resulting from crime. Examples of the types of financial losses that may be covered areas follow medical, mental health, and funeral/burial expenses; loss of income or support; job retraining or rehabilitation services.

### Basic Eligibility Criteria:

The following individuals may be eligible:

- persons legally dependent on the victim for support;
- family members (or persons involved a close relationship with the crime victim) who witness the crime or whose treatment or presence during treatment of the victim is medically required for successful treatment of the victim;
- family members of an injured or murdered victim who sustain emotional trauma (limited to medical expenses and/or mental health counseling expenses); and